

Capturing History as it Happens

About six months ago the Covid-19 pandemic arrived here in Iowa, and life changed. It didn't take long to recognize it as a turning point.

“For those of us living through this, there’s no question we’ll remember it for the rest of our lives,” State Curator **Leo Landis** explains in our latest [Iowa History blog](#). “For future generations, however, we are obligated to document and preserve the images, artifacts and stories that will help them understand the tragedies and disruption this pandemic has brought to our way of life.”

That’s why Landis and State Archivist **Anthony Jahn** have invited Iowans to submit both physical and digital artifacts related to the pandemic's impact on work, school, family traditions and everyday life here in Iowa.

If you have something you’d like to submit for the society’s collection of pandemic-related materials, please let us know. Otherwise, consider becoming a member of the State Historical Society of Iowa to support our mission to preserve and share Iowa history – just as we’ve done since 1857.

[SUBMIT AN ITEM](#)

[BECOME A MEMBER](#)



Iowa History 101

Our popular free webinar series is back in session for the fall, with a new lineup of stories from Iowa’s colorful past. Check out recordings from this summer and mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions, which start at noon on the following Thursdays:

Sept. 10: Back to School

Sept. 22: Iowans and the Presidency
Oct. 8: Buxton, Iowa: The Black Utopia
Oct. 22: Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines
Nov. 12: Iowa and the Great War
Dec. 10: Winter Holidays

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Iowans at Work: World War II

Goldie's Kids Club

Do you know a young historian? Check out what Goldie the Goldfinch is planning for the next few weeks, including activities that children and families can enjoy in the living room or at the kitchen table.



[JOIN THE CLUB](#)

- **History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault** on Sept. 12. Each program takes place on Zoom but spaces are limited, so it's smart to register early.
- **Innovative Iowans** activities will be available online on the first Saturday of every month, with new content coming Sept. 12. Meanwhile, check out the archive of fun at-home expeditions from this summer.
- **Storytime**, with book recommendations and related activities, will be available online the third Wednesday of every month, starting Sept. 16.

Online History Resources for Educators

In this unusual school year, teachers and students have more tools than ever to learn about Iowa history, including many that align with Iowa Core Standards for social studies and literacy. If you're a teacher or know someone who is, please spread the word about our Primary Source Sets, Read Iowa History lesson plans, Goldie's History Kits and growing catalog of educational videos.



Back to school: Keokuk students rode this horse-drawn bus in 1928. Learn more about Iowa's schools, then and now, in the Primary Source Sets from the State Historical Society of Iowa.

[LEARN MORE](#)

After the Storm



Many national resources are available to help Iowa's cultural organizations recover from last month's derecho storm. Here are three good places to start:

The Heritage Emergency National Task Force offers a concise list of resources for disaster recovery. It's co-sponsored by the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Smithsonian Institution, in partnership with more than 60 national service organizations and federal agencies. The resource list includes funding options, plus guidance about health and safety.

The National Park Service's Conserve-O-Grams offer practical advice about salvaging historic collections from damage, including tips on drying and freezing wet materials to minimize damage.

The Regional Alliance for Preservation also offers technical assistance. Its members include the Ford Conservation Center in Omaha (402-595-1180) and the Midwest Art Conservation Center in Minneapolis (612-870-3120).

Programs & Events

Sept. 10: Iowa History 101: Back to School
Sept. 12: History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault
Sept. 24: Iowa History 101: Iowans and the Presidency
Oct. 3: History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault
Oct. 8: Iowa History 101: Buxton, Iowa: The Black Utopia
Oct. 9: State National Register Nomination Review Committee Meeting
Oct. 22: Iowa History 101: Glendale Cemetery, Des Moines
Nov. 7: History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault
Nov. 12: Iowa History 101: Iowa and the Great War
Dec. 5: History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault
Dec. 10: Iowa History 101: Winter Holidays

Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.

VISIT OUR CALENDAR

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State Historical Society of Iowa | iowaculture.gov/history